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IT IS TIME TO PRAY

WILLIAM PARSONS, D. D.

WE are called upon by proclamation from the White House to devote ourselves on the Eighth day of September to prayer for divine help and guidance in the critical and tangled affairs of our own nation as well as in the world crisis which is approaching.

That day we should pray, not primarily as individuals or as churchmen, but as citizens of the United States. Like Daniel of old our supplication should be for "ourselves and our people" as an organized nation that needs mercy and guidance and protection and wisdom from above.

Some thoughtless ones may ask: "Why at this time more than at any other?" The answer is simple. We have deferred too long already this turning to Christ to help us as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We have tinkered and experimented too long already with every device and expedient suggested by man's wisdom, folly and selfishness and all our wisdom has proved abortive, our hopes have turned to ashes and our folly is evident to all who have the power to see an inch beneath the deceptive surface of national and world affairs.

Now we are threatened by a world-wide revolution that seeks to destroy our political, religious, social and economic structures in the name of the vital interests of a backward-looking race, inspired by an insane philosophy, a barbarous paganism and a diabolical selfishness. We are threatened by a pagan autoocracy in Asia, by an atheistic colossus that straddles both

"Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers and read it; and Hezekiah went up into the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord."

I Kings 19:14.

Europe and Asia, and by a pair of international gangsters in southern and western Europe.

Our natural allies are already crushed or fighting desperately for their lives. There is little help to be expected from them. Our internal affairs are in confusion. We are burdened by a mountainous debt piled up by folly, ignorance and selfishness. Our national obligations have been repudiated. Our vital industries are bound with political

and class red tape so that they cannot furnish the means of defense. Our fiscal policy belongs to another age. Our navy is but two-thirds the size required by present conditions. Our army is implemented with blue prints instead of modern equipment. Our cities are ruled by gangsters and racketeers. Our churches, blindly following the subtle leadership of alien pagans, have half turned pacifist. Our political leaders seem to have eyes to see only their stake in the coming elections. A multitude of our people are losing faith in our forms of government while the cry of the ancient Roman crowd comes up from a mass of our under-privileged "give us free games and bread."

Yes, it is time to pray. As Longfellow puts it:

"When the infinite burden of life descendeth upon us,
Crusheth to earth our hopes or under the earth to the graveyard—
Then it is good to pray unto God, for his sorrowing children
Turns he ne'er from his door, but he heals and helps and consoles them."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S PROCLAMATION SETTING APART SABBATH, SEPTEMBER 8, 1940, AS A DAY FOR NATIONAL PRAYER

Following a resolution (found elsewhere in this issue of The Christian Statesman) introduced into the United States Senate on August 5th by Senator Guy M. Gillette of Iowa, requesting the President to appoint a day of prayer on behalf of our nation, President Roosevelt on August 8th issued the following proclamation:

President's Proclamation

"The American heritage of individual freedom and of government deriving its powers from the consent of the governed has from the time of the fathers of our republic been proudly transmitted to each succeeding generation, and to us of this generation has fallen the task of preserving it and transmitting it to the future. We are now engaged in a mighty effort to fortify that heritage.

"Mindful of our duties in the family of nations we have endeavored to prevent the outbreak and the spread of war, and we have raised our voices against international injustice. As Americans and as lovers of freedom we are humbly sympathetic with those who are facing tribulation in lands across the seas.

"When every succeeding day bring sad news of suffering and disaster abroad we are especially conscious of the Divine power and of our dependence upon God's merciful guidance. With this consciousness in our hearts it is seemly that we should, at a time like this, pray to Almighty God for His blessing on our country and for the establishment of a just and permanent peace among all nations of the world.

"Now, therefore, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, do hereby set aside Sunday, September 8, 1940, as a day of prayer; and I urge the people of the United States, of all creeds and denominations, to pray on that day, in their churches or at their homes, on the high seas or wherever they may be, beseeching the Ruler of the Universe to bless our republic, to make us reverently grateful for our heritage and firm in its defense, and to grant to this land and to the troubled world a righteous, enduring peace.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

"Done at the City of Washington this seventh day of August, in the year of Our Lord 1940 and of the independence of the United States of America 165th.

(Signed)

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT."

Days of National Prayer in American History

President Roosevelt in setting apart September 8th as a day for prayer on behalf of our nation and for a righteous and lasting peace in the world, and Senator Gillette in introducing a resolution in the United States Senate calling on the President to appoint a day for national prayer, were following a well established custom in our national history. On numerous occasions, in time of stress and storm, Congress or the President, or both, have called upon the citizens of our country to observe a day for national prayer, humiliation, and in a good number of instances, for fasting.

This was true especially during the period of the Revolutionary War. The Continental Congress within this period appointed five such days for national humiliation,

fasting, and prayer, adopting resolutions, deeply religious—Christian—in connection therewith, as follows: July 20, 1775; May 17, 1776; December 11, 1776; May 3, 1780 and April 1, 1782.

The resolution adopted in the call for May 17, 1776 contained the following: "that with united hearts, we may confess our manifold sins, and by a sincere repentance and amendment of life, appease his righteous displeasure and through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ obtain his forgiveness."

President John Adams on recommendation of Congress proclaimed two national fast days: May 9, 1798 and August 2, 1799. In his first proclamation President Adams spoke of "the just judgments of God against prevalent iniquity as a loud call to repentance and reformation. In his second proclamation he asked the citizens "to call to mind our numerous offenses against the Most High God, confess them before him with sincere penitence, implore his pardoning mercy, through the Great Mediator and Redeemer, for our past transgressions, and that, through the grace of his Holy Spirit, we may be disposed and enabled to yield a more suitable obedience to his righteous requisitions in time to come."

President Madison appointed the third Thursday of August, 1812, as a day for national humiliation and prayer; President Tyler, May 14, 1841; President Taylor, the first Friday of August, 1849; President Buchanan, January 4, 1861.

President Lincoln twice proclaimed a day of prayer and fasting—the first Thursday of September, 1861, and the 30th of April, 1863, the latter in response to the request of the Senate. The resolution of the Senate and President Lincoln's proclamation following it, probably the most profoundly religious state documents of our history, we reproduce in their entirety in this issue of The Christian Statesman.

President Wilson, during the World War, in response to a concurrent resolution of the United States Congress, appointed, October 28, 1917, "As a day of supplication and prayer for all the people of the nation."

All these—fifteen in number, including President Roosevelt's appointment of September 8, 1940—were official acts by the leaders of the nation, calling the citizens of this Republic to observe days of prayer for the nation.

Prayer Offered by George Washington

"Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage, we humbly beseech Thee, that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be peace and justice at home and that through obedience to Thy law we may show forth Thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble suffer not our trust in Thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE NATIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION AND THE DAY FOR NATIONAL PRAYER

On July 16th the Board of Directors of The National Reform Association on recommendation of the President of the Association, Rev. R. H. Martin, D.D., took action that the Association inaugurate a movement to petition the Senate of the United States to request the President to appoint a day for national prayer in view of the critical situation in our own nation and in the world at large. A committee was appointed to draw up a form of petition to the Senate and to present the same to the Christian Citizenship Conference meeting at Winona Lake, Indiana, July 22nd to 28th, under the auspices of The National Reform Association. The committee—the President and the following members of the Board of Directors Rev. W. W. McQinney, D.D., Ph.D., Rev. W. W. T. Duncan, D.D., LL.D., and Rev. H. B. Mansell—prepared a form of petition for general use. This petition was presented to the Sabbath morning service at Winona Lake, July 28th, attended by about 700, and unanimously adopted and forwarded to the Clerk of the Senate which was presented to the Senate as shown by the Congressional Record. On Monday, July 29th, Dr. Martin went to Evanston, Illinois, where he had a conference with Mrs. Ida B. Wise Smith, President of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, with a view to enlisting the support of this organization on behalf of this movement. Mrs. Smith expressed hearty approval both of the movement and of the form of petition, and said she would recommend to the annual convention of her organization to meet in Chicago the following week that their organization get back of this effort. It was also agreed that Mrs. Smith should write her own Senator, Honorable Guy M. Gillette, presenting this matter to him and asking his co-operation in getting the matter before the Senate. That Senator Gillette heartily approved this movement is evidenced by the fact that on August 5th he introduced into the Senate a resolution calling upon the President to appoint a day for national prayer and incorporated in this resolution almost in its entirety the form of petition drawn up by the committee of The National Reform Association. Three days after the resolution was presented to the Senate the President issued his proclamation calling for the observance of a day for national prayer.

Following is the form of petition of the National Reform Association and also the resolution introduced into the Senate by Senator Gillette.

Resolution of The National Reform Association

Whereas, the Senate of the United States, in 1863, requested President Lincoln, by proclamation, to set apart a day for national prayer and humiliation, in view of the critical situation then confronting our war-torn nation

Whereas, President Lincoln, in response to this request, appointed a day for prayer for the nation

Whereas, President Wilson, during the crisis of the World War, likewise appointed a day for national prayer and

Whereas, following the observance of these days of national prayer there were manifest outpourings of God's blessing on the nation

Therefore, be it resolved, that in the world situation we are now facing, imperiling, as it does, both the spiritual and democratic ideals of our nation, and of other nations as well, we respectfully call upon your honorable body to request the President of the United States to appoint a day of prayer on behalf of our na-

tion, a day for confession of our national offenses, for petitioning the Throne of Grace for guidance and protection of our nation in this crisis period, and for pledging allegiance to Him who is the Saviour and Sovereign of nations, as truly as of men, that we may walk in His ways.

Resolution of Senator Gillette

Whereas, the Senate of the United States on March 3, 1863, passed a resolution requesting President Lincoln, by proclamation, to set apart a day for national prayer and humiliation, in view of the critical situation then confronting our war-torn Nation, and President Lincoln, in response to this request, appointed such a date of prayer for the Nation; and

Whereas, President Wilson, during the crisis of the World War, likewise appointed a day for national prayer and supplication; and

Whereas, following the observance of these days of national divine petition, there were manifest outpourings of God's blessings on the Nation; and

Whereas, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in an address to the joint session of the Congress on September 21, 1939, stated that the situation of recent weeks carried a trend to a condition which "relegates religion, democracy, and good faith among nations to the background where there could be no place for the ideals of the Prince of Peace"; and

Whereas, President Roosevelt, in an address to the American people on May 26, 1940, stated that "day and night I pray for the restoration of peace in this mad world of ours. I am certain that out of the hearts of every man, woman, and child in this land in every waking minute a supplication goes up to Almighty God; that all of us beg that suffering and starving, that death and destruction may end, and that peace may return to the world. In common affection for all mankind your prayers join with mine that God will heal the wounds and hurts of humanity": Therefore be it

Resolved, That in the situation we are now facing, imperiling as it does both the spiritual and democratic ideals of our own Nation and of other nations as well, we respectfully request the President of the United States, by proclamation, to appoint a day of prayer on behalf of our Nation, a day for confession of our national offenses, and for petitioning the Source of All Wisdom for the guidance and protection of our Nation in this crisis period, and that He may point the way to thought and action that will secure for our own country and all humanity the blessings of peace and liberty under law.

Italian Paper Asserts Roosevelt Offends God

ROME, Aug. 25.—The Regime Fascista of Cremona today editorially accused President Roosevelt of profanation in calling upon God to protect the United States.

"God has presently become fashionable for all who previously ignored and offended him," the editorial said. "President Roosevelt proclaimed Sunday, Sept. 8, as a day of prayer to beseech God to watch over the United States.

"First Reynaud and then Halifax called on God. Now, even Roosevelt. We are certain that God will continue to mete out justice to his profaners."

—The New York Times.

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An Appeal to Pastors

President Roosevelt has designated and set apart Sabbath, September 8, 1940, as a day of prayer on behalf of our own nation and for a just and lasting peace in the world. Within the past five or six years, many religious bodies, including churches and other organizations, have petitioned the President to proclaim a day of prayer for our nation. There has been widespread disappointment that he did not do so long ago. Perhaps he felt the time was not ripe, although this nation for the past ten years has been passing through a crisis period which certainly justified the calling of such a day. Now, however, the President, responding no doubt to the dictates of his own heart, as well as to the calls of the religious leaders of our country, and to the resolution of Senator Gillette introduced in the Senate requesting the President to appoint a day for national prayer and humiliation, has issued the call, setting apart September 8th as a day for national prayer.

How this call will be responded to by the citizens of our nation, will depend largely upon our religious leaders and especially upon the pastors of our churches throughout the nation. The President has seen fit, contrary to the usual custom, to appoint a Sabbath Day rather than a week day as the day for national prayer. This has both its advantages and its disadvantages. It will not have the distinctiveness it would have had if the day appointed had been a week day. On the other hand more people may be gathered together in the churches for prayer and to hear messages in keeping with the occasion because the day appointed is a Sabbath Day. We appeal to all pastors, all religious leaders, to make the most of this day. Help to make it preeminently a day of prayer on behalf of our nation and for all nations. Was there ever a time when there was greater need for prayer, earnest, be-

lieving prayer, on behalf of the nations than now in the midst of a world situation more critical than the world has faced in a thousand years?

We believe that it will add greatly to the effectiveness of the observance of this day for the pastors, or other religious leaders, to give messages appropriate to the occasion. It will emphasize the importance of the day, and help to guide the people in their prayers on behalf of our own and other nations.

To give assistance to those who will have the responsibility of leadership in the observance of this day, we are devoting this issue of *The Christian Statesman* almost entirely to this day of prayer and getting it out in time to reach our readers by September third. In this issue will be found the President's proclamation, Senator Gillette's resolution, the resolution of our National Reform Association largely embodied in Senator Gillette's resolution, the Senate resolution of 1863 and President Lincoln's proclamation of a day for national prayer, suggestions for sermons on this day, and for what we should pray for on this day. Pastors not receiving *The Christian Statesman* regularly, who receive this issue will know it was sent them in hope it will be helpful to them in preparation for the observance of the day.

COMPARISONS

A comparison of the earlier with the more recent documents of our national history, calling for the observance of days of national prayer, reveals the fact that the former are for more distinctively Christian than the latter. Note for example the prominent place that confession of national sin and the call to repentance has in the resolutions of the Continental Congress in President Adam's and President Lincoln's proclamations appointing days for national prayer, as you will find them elsewhere in this issue of *The Christian Statesman*. Compare with this President Roosevelt's proclamation in which there is no reference to the sins or shortcomings of our nation. President Wilson's proclamation in 1917, like President Roosevelt's likewise made no reference to national sins. In early days quite generally reference was made to Jesus Christ—forgiveness of national sins was sought through Him and prayer made in His name—"encouraged in this day of trouble by the assurances of his Word, to seek him for succor according to his appointed way, through Jesus Christ," reads the resolution of the Senate in 1863. But excepting one national proclamation since the Civil War, so far as our knowledge goes, all reference to Jesus Christ is left out.

President Cleveland in his Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1896 included the following:

"And let us through the mediation of Him who taught us how to pray, implore the forgiveness of our sins and a continuance of heavenly favor."

Neither President Wilson nor President Roosevelt in their proclamation made any reference to Jesus Christ.

We are sorry for this trend in our nation's history. Please note in Senator Gillette's resolution in the Senate on August 5th, there is a reference to confession of our national offenses, but if you will compare his resolution with the petition of The National Reform Association to the Senate, most of which is embodied in Senator Gillette's resolution, the clause in our Association's petition "and for pledging allegiance to Him who is the Saviour and Sovereign of nations as truly as of men," is not included. This notwithstanding the fact that the Supreme Court of the United States in 1892 declared, "this is a Christian nation." When President Cleveland was criticised for asking the nation to pray in the name of Christ, his reply was, "We are a Christian nation and we may as well face the music."

The chaplains in our national Congress do pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the true way of approach to God.

But even though these official calls to prayer on behalf of our nation may not be as Christian as we could wish, doubtless the great bulk of the American people in their observance of this day of prayer will make confession of our nation's sins and offer their prayers in the all prevailing name of Jesus.

Ten Reasons for Voting Against Sunday Movies

In many communities in Pennsylvania the question of Sunday movies will be voted on at the November election. Why should every Christian citizen, every citizen interested in fair play, and in the moral and financial welfare of his community, vote against Sunday movies? Here are ten reasons:

1. Because God says, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."
2. Because it forces unnecessary Sunday labor thus requiring employees to break the above command of God.
3. Because it is unfair to other lines of business which voluntarily or by requirement of law close on the Lord's Day.

(continued at foot of page five)

SUGGESTIONS FOR SERMONS ON THE DAY OF NATIONAL PRAYER

SABBATH, SEPTEMBER, 8th, 1940

WILLIAM PARSONS, D.D.

Expository Sermons

A Boastful Enemy. 2 Chronicles 32, 1-22

1. A mighty and a boastful enemy.
2. One who
 - (a) Exalted himself above God.
 - (b) Sneered at Israel's God and
 - (c) Ridiculed their trust in him.
 - (d)Appealed by propaganda to the ignorance and fear of the people.
3. Both king and prophet turned to God.
4. The assuring answer.

* * * * *

A Day of National Crisis. Isaiah 37;1-7

1. Challenged to surrender.
2. Turning to God's prophet for leadership.
3. Hope in the justice, mercy and goodness of God.
4. The answer of comfort.
5. The deliverance through God's intervention.

* * * * *

A Day of Perplexity and of Hope. Daniel 9;1-20

1. An illustration of what is necessary in times of perplexity.
 - (a) Knowledge of God's time. The seventy years of captivity.
 - (b) Consciousness of national sins.
 - (c) Of God's justice in national confusion and humiliation.
2. A prayer for knowledge of
 - (a) The present and future of his kingdom.
 - (b) For an understanding of present duty.
 - (c) For divine guidance and help.

* * * * *

A Picture of Many Ages. Psalm 2

1. Rebellion of the nations against God and Christ.
2. God's attitude
 - (a) Scorn for their futility.
 - (b) The delegation of all authority to Christ.
3. The extent of his domain.
4. The certainty of his final victory.
5. The wisdom for all nations. vss. 10-12.

There is nothing that so grips the heart of God's people as expository preaching.

* * * * *

A Bible Reading

The Past, Present and Future of Christ's Kingdom.

1. The kingdom promised. Daniel 2:44-45.
2. The king revealed. Daniel 7:13-14.

4. Because there is ample opportunity to attend the movies on week days.
5. Because many motion pictures are unfit for exhibition on week days. Much less are they fit for exhibition on the Lord's Day.
6. Because it will lower the moral

- tone of the community and decrease real estate values.
7. Because the motive back of it is greed, not godliness. Sunday movies put man over God.
8. Because the church in its unselfish service of building the character of the people has a right to one

3. His claim of authority. Matt. 28:18 and John 5:17-29.
4. The way to his throne. Phil. 2:7-11.
5. His relations to the rulers of the nations. Rev. 1:5.
6. The present day judgment upon secularism. Rev. 16:17-22.
7. The outcome in the next great forward movement of the kingdom. Rev. 18:1.

* * * * *

Two Topical Sermons

Repentance and Preparation for National Prayer: The national sins for which we should repent.

1. The blind toleration of secularism in our various forms of government.
2. For putting the authority of the state above the law of God.
 - (a) The MacIntosh case.
 - (b) The Supreme Courts upholding of the repudiation law.
3. For our nation's wanton exploiting of the vices of the people in
 - (a) Legalizing gambling and the liquor traffic.
 - (b) Tolerating the graft of city governments on racketeers and prostitution.
4. For the calloused indifference of our isolationists toward the suffering of peoples being destroyed, and the assistance rendered to the destroyers rather than the sufferers. For instance, Japan.
5. For the well nigh universal putting of pleasure above all other considerations of life.

Conclusion

Can we expect God to hear our prayer until this is done?

* * * * *

What We Should Pray For on the Day of National Prayer:

Daniel 9:18-19 and Nehemiah 4:4

1. The recognition of Christ as the supreme authority in National affairs both by the people and the instruments of government.
2. The spirit that will seek first the kingdom of Christ.
3. The putting away of class war.
4. A larger faith in our forms of government.
5. The forgiveness of our national as well as individual sins.
6. Heavenly wisdom to meet the approaching crisis.
7. God's providential protection against his and our enemies.

whole day of the week, free from commercial rivalry.

9. Because it is part of a nationwide movement to undermine our Christian American Sabbath.
10. Because the Sabbath, religiously observed, is necessary to maintain civil and religious liberty and to combat the enemies of democracy.

Association Activities

The Federated Legislative Committee consisting of two representatives of thirteen Pennsylvania organizations, held its July meeting in Pittsburgh in connection with the Christian Endeavor Convention meeting in this same city. Important matters relating to the liquor situation and the Sunday movie local option elections this fall were considered. Rev. H. B. Mansell and Dr. R. H. Martin represented The National Reform Association.

* * *

The National Reform Association will take an active part in numerous local option contests on Sunday movies to be waged at the November election this year in Pennsylvania. Already our speakers have been called upon to make addresses before ministerial groups and at public meetings in preparation for these contests. Forms of petition have been furnished leaders in communities to get this issue on the ballot and we have been requested to furnish special literature for use in the educational campaign preceding the voting on this issue on November. On September 30th Dr. Martin is to address the Ministerial Association of Butler on this issue. Those wishing literature on this subject, or addresses, or counsel on how to conduct a campaign on this issue, write our Association, 209 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

* * *

In the near future our Association will publish new, up-to-date County Liquor Leaflets for Beaver and for Allegheny Counties, for the former 25,000 copies and if sufficient financial support can be secured to justify it, 100,000 copies for the latter. Last year we published these leaflets for 14 counties—in all 342,000 copies. We are prepared to publish these leaflets for other counties where there is sufficient demand for them to justify publishing a minimum of 10,000 copies. Write us if you are interested in securing these leaflets for your county.

* * *

Dr. Martin has accepted an invitation from the Ministerial Association of Stafford, Kansas, to be the preacher for the Preaching Mission to be held in Stafford this fall—November 11th to 18th. For a number of years it has been the custom to conduct a preaching mission for one week at this place, and to invite an outside minister to do the preaching. While in Kansas Dr. Martin expects to make a number of addresses before and after the

above date, as well as within this period, in presenting Gospel messages from the National Reform viewpoint.

* * *

The educational campaign in Beaver County under the direction of the Beaver County Branch of The National Reform Association, outlined in our last issue, is being carried forward successfully. At this writing it is certain that in Beaver Falls and Rochester, where the proponents of Sunday movies lost out in the local option contest five years ago, that the battle over Sunday movies will be fought over again as the opposition has circulated petitions to get this issue on the ballot in the November election. In preparation for this contest, as well as to build a stronger sentiment for proper observance of the Lord's Day, more than 600 copies of the 1,000 copies of "Six Studies on the Day" which our Association is providing for use in the study of the Sabbath have been taken by Bible classes and other groups now studying or about to study this subject. Special literature for use in these campaigns is being prepared and vigorous campaigns will be waged to again win a victory over Sunday movies in the November election. The 100 colored slides on Alcohol with the accompanying lecture on "Health and Alcohol" have already been shown to several thousand students in the public schools.

Winona Conference

The annual Christian Citizenship Conference of The National Reform Association at Winona Lake, Indiana, was held July 22nd to 28th. The program as given in the last issue of The Christian Statesman was carried out in full excepting two messages by Dr. E. K. Patton of Geneva College. The addresses—15 in number—were of a high order and received favorable comment from those who heard them. Dr. W. W. McKinney's series of four addresses on "Rebuilding the Biblical Foundations of America—In the Home, the Nation, in Education, and in the Public Schools"—were Biblical, scholarly, and practical. It was Dr. McKinney's first appearance as a speaker at Winona. To say that his messages were highly appreciated is putting it mildly.

Rev. H. B. Mansell gave three very informing and interesting messages—two on the liquor situation and one on gambling. His forceful messages were a challenge to the church and Christian people to meet the situation we are facing regarding these two outstanding evils.

Dr. Martin gave a series of five addresses on "Rethinking the Place of the Sabbath in America." The first two messages dealt with the Sabbath as a fundamental institution of society, the remaining three brought to the church and particularly to church leaders the challenge to meet the Sabbath situation chiefly by giving the Sabbath a place of major importance in the educational program of the church and thus rebuilding true Biblical ideals of the Lord's Day in the minds and hearts of the people.

Dr. W. W. T. Duncan's three messages were all that those who know Dr. Duncan and his ability as a thinker and speaker would expect. His first message was delivered on Friday. His other messages were delivered at the regular Winona church services on Sabbath morning and evening, as he spoke on that day, both as the representative of The National Reform Association and as the guest preacher for the Winona Christian Assembly. His Friday message dealt with the war situation. On Sabbath morning he spoke on "Christ's Law of Burden Bearing" and on Sabbath evening on "The Abundant Life."

It was at the Sabbath morning service that the resolution petitioning the United States Senate to request the President to appoint a day for national prayer was presented and adopted.

The audiences on Sabbath were all that could be desired but on week days, due to the extremely hot weather and other causes, were small.

Why Sunday Amusements?

"There is a great deal of cynical pharisaism that is parading under the cloak of a liberal Sunday. There are forces at work having for their supposed purpose the liberalizing of Sunday which are sheer camouflage for commercialism. So much of the present-day discussion about blue laws and a Puritan Sunday is mere oratorical claptrap that is as illogical as it is insincere."

In the last analysis it is greed against godliness, preferring shekels of silver to the Saviour of man. Take profit out of most of the Sunday amusements that are tolerated, and they would not exist. Places of amusement open their doors wide on Sunday not out of charity but because there is money in it. In the desecration of the Sabbath Day, whether flagrant or inconsequential, a man reveals the kind of soul that is in him. He declares judgment on himself. He reveals whether he puts God before man or man before God."

—Dr. Joseph R. Sizoo.

Candidate for U. S. Senate

We wish the readers of The Christian Statesman to know that Rev. H. B. Mansell of Windber, Pa., a member of the Board of Directors of The National Reform Association, is a candidate for the office of U. S. Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the Prohibition Party Ticket. Doubtless there are a good many citizens in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation who, when they go to the polls on November 5th, will want their votes to express their convictions regarding the Christian principles which should guide our nation in meeting the tremendous problems now facing it, as expressed in the party platform, and in the character and expressed ideals of the leading candidates for office of the party. For all such the Prohibition Party this year affords them this opportunity. Its platform dealing not only with the Liquor problem, but with the leading social and moral problems of the nations, is on a high Christian level.

The same can be said of Mr. Babson, the candidate for Vice President, and doubtless of the great majority of the candidates for Federal, State and Local offices. We wish to speak in particular of Mr. Mansell. He is a man of high Christian character, broad vision, well informed on matters pertaining to the State, and withal a man of convictions and the courage to stand for them.



Rev. H. B. Mansell

REV. GEORGE E. BRENNEMAN

On March 14, 1940, Rev. George E. Brenneman, pastor of the California Avenue Methodist Church, Pittsburgh, Pa., at the age of 69, passed to his eternal reward. The Board of Directors of the National Reform Associa-

Lord Halifax Calls On The People of Great Britain To Pray

In Great Britain, as in the United States, the political leaders are calling upon the people to offer their prayers to God on behalf of their nation. Months ago, in response to the call of King George, England observed a day of prayer on behalf of the British Empire. More recently, Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax in a radio address in which he replied to Hitler's demand on Great Britain to surrender or be destroyed, he appealed to all Britishers to pray daily for the Empire in the life and death struggle in which they are now engaged. In many respects this was a remarkable address—in setting forth the issues involved in the conflict with Hitler, in maintaining the justice of their cause, in the calm confidence expressed in final victory for Great Britain—but its most outstanding characteristic is its distinctively Christian character. It expresses strong confidence in the power of prayer, calls attention to the fact that the people of the United States are praying for Great Britain, and calls upon every Britisher to pray every day for Great Britain. We quote from his address as follows:

"The people of the United States did not build their new home in order to surrender it to this fanatic. They have judged his narrow and twisted vision. They see that his gospel is a gospel of hate, that his policy is the policy of brute force, his message to mankind the enthralment of the human spirit under ruthless tyranny.

"We may take heart from the certain knowledge that that great people pray for our victory over this wicked man and his ways as fervently as any of his present victims. The foundations of their country, as of ours, have been Christian teaching and belief in God.

tion of which he was a member for a period of about fifteen years wishes to place on record its high appreciation of the Christian character and service of this brother in Christ.

Mr. Brenneman was a faithful minister of the Gospel serving his Master in this capacity for a period of forty years in twelve congregations all of which are located within the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Church. He preached the Evangelical Gospel. He was a prime mover in establishing the Committee on Evangelism of his Conference. In his preaching he also proclaimed and applied the message of Jesus in its application to the Liquor Traffic, the desecration of the Sabbath, and to other social and

For this reason, I have no doubt that the King's broadcast last Christmas, when he spoke of putting our hand in the hand of God, went home to them as it did to us.

"Where will God lead us? Not, we may be sure, through easy or pleasant paths. That is not His way. He will not help us to avoid our difficulties. What He will do is to give to those, who humbly ask, the spirit that no dangers can disturb.

"The Christian message to the world brings peace in war; peace where we most need it; peace of soul.

Prayer of All is Asked

"It is that same Christian message which makes its giver, who is God, the best friend with whom a man can share life or death. Those of us who cannot serve in the armed forces must all do our best in other ways to help them. I'm sure we shall and there is one thing we can all do, soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians, men, women and children, all together, which may be much more powerful than we know. And this is to pray.

"I heard the other day of a Yorkshire village where after all the talk about a fifth column the people had agreed to form a sixth column, in which they pledged themselves to try and give a few minutes each day in God's house to prayer. We shall naturally ask God to take care of those we love and to bless the cause for which our country is at war. We can ask this with confidence because we know that we are trying to resist things that cannot be according to God's will.

"This, then, is the spirit in which we must march together in this crusade for Christianity."

moral reforms. He was a man of deep convictions and courageous in expressing his convictions from the pulpit, the public platform and in conversation with others.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the National Reform Association he manifested a keen interest in the Association's work, expressing his views and convictions at board meetings. The Lord calls his workers but his work goes on. May the Lord raise up others to take the place of those whom the Master calls home.

To Mrs. Brenneman and the members of his family and friends, the Board of Directors extend sympathy and prayers.

SENATE RESOLUTION AND PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION OF A DAY FOR NATIONAL PRAYER AND HUMILIATION

Senator Gillette in introducing a resolution in the Senate calling on the President to appoint a day for national prayer, and President Roosevelt in appointing a day for national prayer, were following precedents in our national history. One of these precedents is particular noteworthy. In the year 1863, in the darkest days of the civil war, Senator Harlan of Iowa, introduced a resolution in the Senate requesting President Lincoln to set apart a day for national prayer and humiliation which was passed by unanimous vote. The President "fully concurring" appointed April 30th as the day for national prayer and humiliation.

The Senate resolution and President Lincoln's Proclamation are probably the most religious, the most Christian, of all the official documents in our national history. In these documents practically every Biblical, every Christian principle of civil government, finds expression. Every American should be familiar with these two documents. They are particularly worthy of consideration in connection with the observance of the day for prayer on behalf of our nation on September 8th. For this reason we reproduce them in full.

The Senate Resolution

"Resolved, That devoutly recognizing the supreme authority and just government of Almighty God in all the affairs of men and of nations, and sincerely believing that no people, however great in numbers and resources, or however strong in the justice of their cause, can prosper without his favor, and at the same time deplored the national offenses which have provoked his righteous judgment, yet encouraged in this day of trouble by the assurances of his Word, to seek him for succor according to his appointed way, through Jesus Christ, the Senate of the United States do hereby request the President of the United States, by his proclamation, to designate and set apart a day for national prayer and humiliation, requesting all the people of the land to suspend their secular pursuits, and unite in keeping the day in solemn communion with the Lord of Hosts, supplicating him to enlighten the councils and direct the policy of the rulers of the nation, and to support all our soldiers, sailors, and marines, and the whole people, in the firm discharge of duty, until the existing rebellion shall be overthrown

and the blessings of peace restored to our bleeding country."

* * *

President Lincoln's Proclamation

Whereas the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the supreme authority and just government of Almighty God in all the affairs of men and nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for national prayer and humiliation; And whereas it is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures, and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord; And insomuch as we know that, by his divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

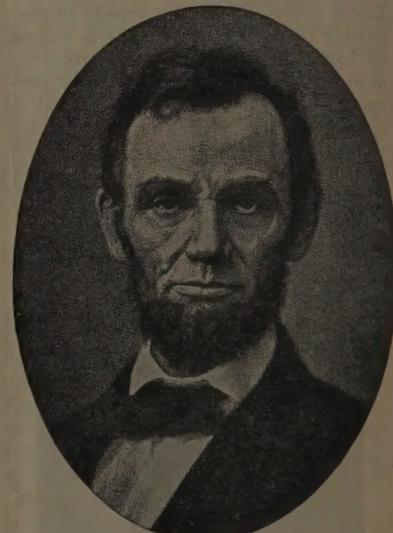
Now, therefore, in compliance with the request and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer. And I do hereby request all the people to abstain on that day from their ordinary secular pur-

suits, and to unite at their several places of public worship and their respective homes in keeping the day holy to the Lord and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope, authorized by the Divine teachings, that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings no less than the pardon of our national sins, and restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.



President Lincoln

Rating the Fourth Commandment

"The Sabbath is a great moral means to all the moral and spiritual ends for which man has been created and redeemed. It stands in the midst of the moral law of the Decalogue, every Commandment calling for its presence. Not a single part of moral duty can afford to lose the services of this blessed day. Wickedness sees in it the Key position by the taking of which it may hope to sweep the whole field. It is needed for the victory of truth and righteousness in the Earth."